



# UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

RATED OFFICERS



DIGITAL EDITION



# ELITE GROUP

At the heart of the Air Force is an elite group of officers dedicated to accomplishing some of the most challenging and demanding missions in the world.

Known as rated officers, they are the Pilots, Combat Systems Officers and Air Battle Managers. Their jobs are to protect the United States and its allies and to maintain the superiority of the Air Force in its mission to “fly, fight and win in air, space and cyberspace.”

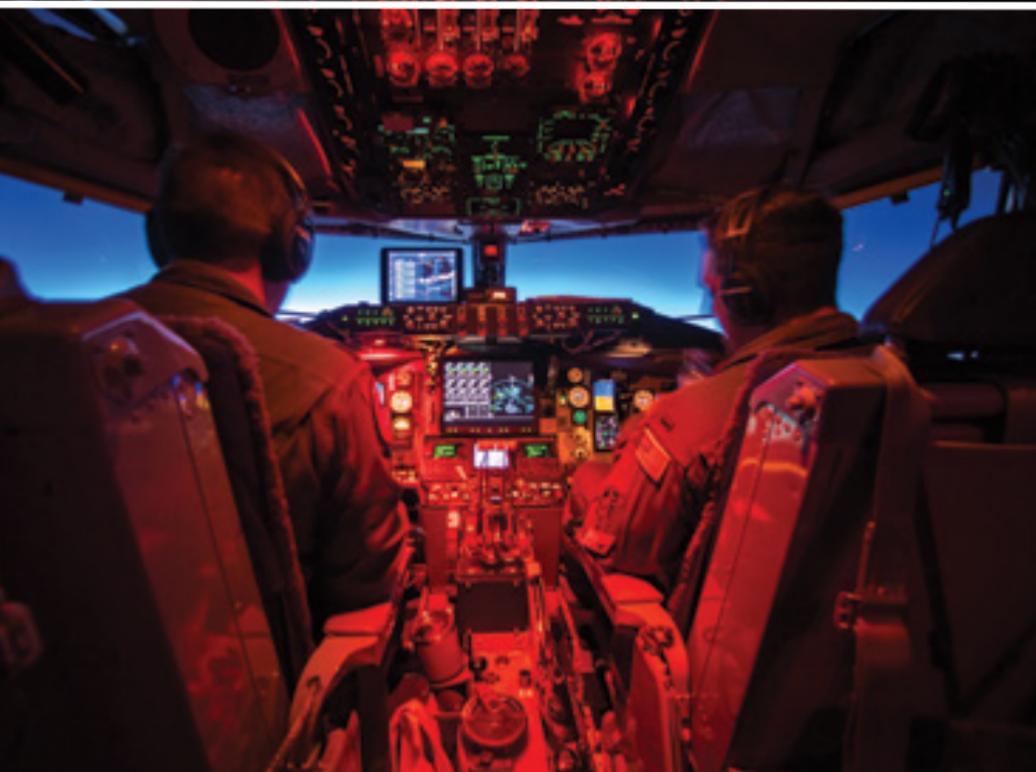
To be a rated officer, you must have at least a bachelor’s degree from an approved college or university and successfully complete the Air Force Officer Training School, or be a graduate of the Air Force Academy or Air Force ROTC.



# PILOT

The Air Force has over 5,000 aircraft based around the world and it requires extraordinary skill and precision to fly them. They include fighters, bombers, cargo/ transports, helicopters, tankers, trainers, experimental aircraft and the most recent addition — remotely piloted aircraft (RPA).

As the number one requested aircraft by ground forces commanders, RPAs have quickly become one of the most effective weapon systems in the Air Force. From half way around the globe, pilots can maneuver RPAs to attack enemy targets and provide real-time intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance information to the warfighter.





Whichever aircraft you fly in the Air Force, you must have considerable physical stamina and stay cool under pressure. You'll receive extensive training and be classified in one of these specialties:

- **Bomber Pilot**
- **Experimental Test Pilot**
- **Fighter Pilot**
- **Mobility Pilot**
- **Reconnaissance/Surveillance/Electronic Warfare Pilot**
- **Remotely Piloted Aircraft Pilot**
- **Rescue Pilot**
- **Special Operations Pilot**
- **Trainer Pilot**

As an officer, you'll be relied upon for your leadership expertise. You may lead aircrew, serve as an instructor pilot and command operational flying organizations.

## PILOT QUALIFICATIONS

An undergraduate degree specializing in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics is preferred.

- Begin pilot training by age 33.
- Successfully complete Air Force Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training (RPA pilots — Undergraduate RPA Training).
- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Meet physical and moral requirements.

(Due to the requirements of this career field, pilots incur a 10-year service commitment.)

# COMBAT SYSTEMS OFFICER

As a Combat Systems Officer (CSO), your job is to manage in-flight air operations. You're the tactical expert of your specific aircraft. Your training and precision in high-tech navigation, communications and weapon systems equipment is vital to air defense against adversaries and for the elimination of enemy targets.

You may serve as a Bomber, Fighter, Mobility, Rescue, Reconnaissance/Surveillance/Electronic Warfare, Special Operations, Trainer or Experimental Test CSO. The number of CSOs onboard your aircraft depends on its mission.

Aircraft include:

- **AC-130E/H/W**
- **C-130H**
- **B-1**
- **B-52**
- **E-3**
- **E-8**
- **EC-130/J**
- **F-15E**
- **KC-135**
- **U-28**
- **HC-130J**
- **RC-135S/U/V/W**

(This list is not all inclusive and may change due to the needs of the Air Force.)

Also, as an officer, you'll be relied upon for your leadership expertise. You may lead aircrew, serve as a CSO instructor and command operational flying organizations.



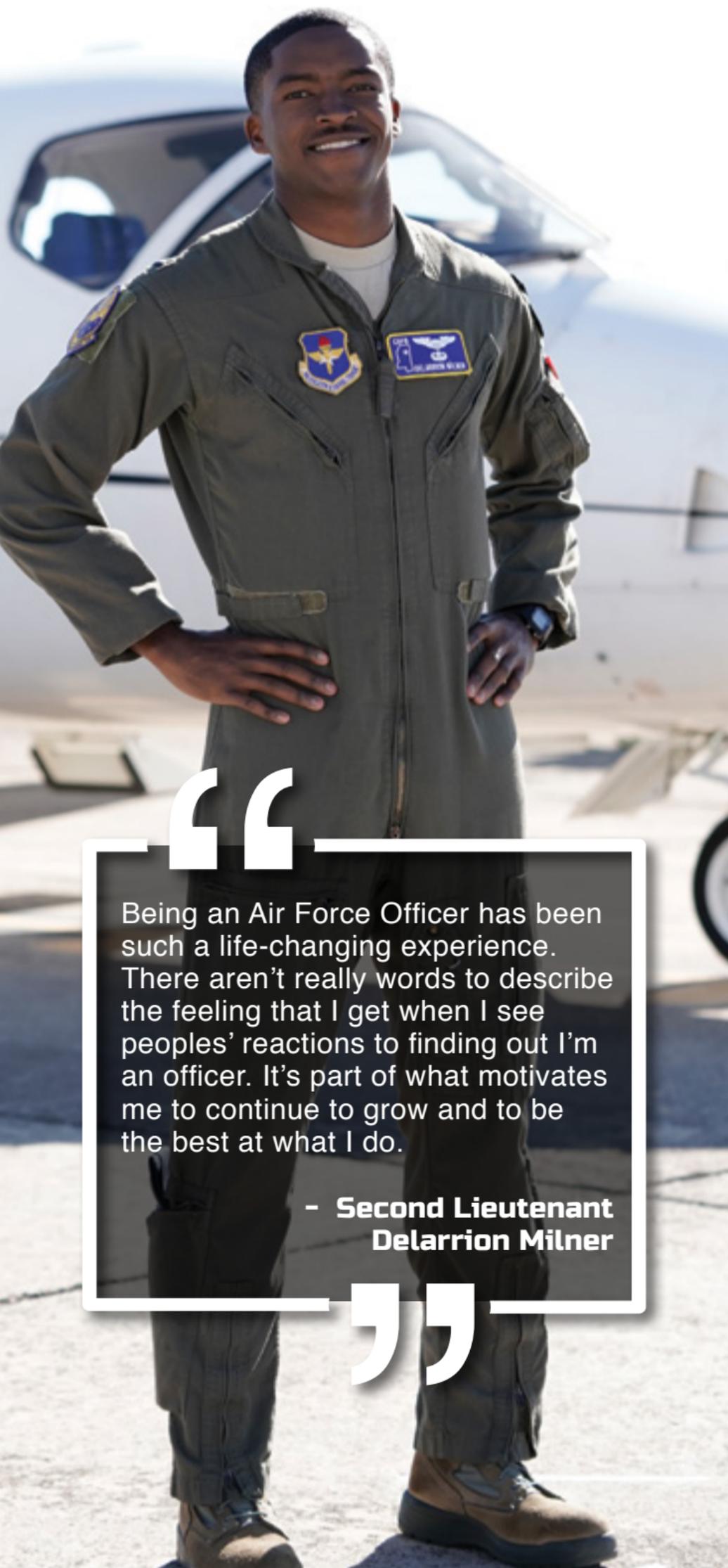
# CSO QUALIFICATIONS

An undergraduate degree specializing in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics is preferred.

- Begin CSO training by age 33.
- Successfully complete Air Force Specialized Undergraduate CSO Training.
- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Meet physical and moral requirements.

(Due to the requirements of this career field, CSOs incur a six-year service commitment.)





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Being an Air Force Officer has been such a life-changing experience. There aren't really words to describe the feeling that I get when I see peoples' reactions to finding out I'm an officer. It's part of what motivates me to continue to grow and to be the best at what I do.

- **Second Lieutenant  
Delarrion Milner**”

# AIR BATTLE MANAGER

When planning and carrying out air combat missions, the Air Force relies on Air Battle Managers (ABMs) to be in constant communication with commanders and ground forces ensuring enemy targets are identified, disrupted or destroyed.

ABMs are responsible for battle management and command and control of the entire air operation, including air defense and tactical missions. Their knowledge of aircraft, weapons systems and surveillance plays a critical role in the success of air operations.

As an ABM, you may be assigned to:

- **E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS)** — provides early warning, surveillance, battle management, weapons control functions and combat identification.
- **E-8 Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS) aircraft** — delivers persistent ground surveillance and communications to provide real-time battle management to conventional and non-conventional forces across land, sea and air domains.
- **Control and Reporting Center (CRC)** — mobile, ground-based command and control system that operates independently or in combination with other tactical command and control elements.

As an officer, you'll be relied upon for your leadership expertise. You may lead aircrew, serve as an ABM instructor and command operational flying organizations.



# ABM QUALIFICATIONS

- An undergraduate degree specializing in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics is preferred.
- Begin ABM training by age 33.
- Successfully complete Air Force Undergraduate ABM Training requirements.
- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Meet physical and moral requirements.

(Due to the requirements of this career field, ABMs incur a six-year service commitment.)





## BENEFITS

The Air Force quality of life is hard to beat. As a rated officer, you'll enjoy:

- A guaranteed job with an excellent starting salary, incentive pay, regular promotion eligibility and potential to earn a near six-figure income.
- 30 days of vacation with pay each year.
- Comprehensive medical care for you and your dependents.
- Tax-free food and housing allowances.
- Opportunities to live, work and travel worldwide.
- Generous retirement system with the Thrift Savings Plan similar to a 401(k).

(The above benefits are available to those serving full time. Not all benefits are available for part-time service. See your recruiter for more details.)



## MULTIPLE WAYS TO SERVE

You can choose one of several paths that allows you to serve your country either full-time or part-time. No matter which path you select, you'll become a member of our global Air Force family. For more information, contact a recruiter today.

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**U.S. AIR FORCE**

# AIM HIGH

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